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Central Intelligence Agency

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Brian,

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Thank you for the note concerning your problem in having your wife attend the Advanced Intelligence Seminar. First off, I should like to assure you that your statement "...that the DDA does not believe that spouses are worth training," is not correct. All of us recognize the value of spouses in contributing to the employees' services, particularly in an overseas environment. It is not possible, however, to include spouses in entire courses for reasons of limited facilities, effect on class interaction and, to a certain extent, security considerations. I regret the initial decision that your wife could attend was reversed. I have been assured, however, that this was a recognized and regrettable mistake that will not be repeated.

On the more positive side, as a result of your letter the Office of Training is developing a formal policy relating to spouse attendance at Agency training courses on a selected basis. At the beginning of courses, those lectures of specific interest to spouses will be identified and students will be permitted to make advanced arrangements for spouse attendance.

I believe the proposed OTR policy is reasonable and when taken together with those courses which OTR conducts specifically for spouse participation strikes an equitable balance in our training courses.

